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Isoko language

Isoko is an Edoid language spoken by the Isoko people in the Niger Delta of southern Nigeria, specifically in the regions of Delta and Bayelsa States. The Isoko and Urhobo languages are not dialects of the same language but separate languages; each existing independently, but erroneously speculated as dialects of a language. This has in so many ways suppressed the language below it's neighbour Urhobo language. Isoko has about 20 to 21 dialects, but the Aviara/Uzere dialect is the standard dialect of the language.

Michael A. Marioghae, working with Peter Ladefoged in 1962, made one of a few audio recordings of sample Isoko words that are made available at the UCLA phonetics archive.[3]

Isoko	
Region	Nigeria
Ethnicity	Isoko
Native speakers	420,000 (2001)[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo ▪ Atlantic–Congo ▪ Volta–Niger ▪ YEAI ▪ Edoid ▪ Southwestern ▪ **Isoko**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`iso`
Glottolog	`isok1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/isok1239)`[2]

Phonology

The Isoko vowel system is hardly reduced from that reconstructed for proto-Edoid. There are nine vowels in two harmonic sets, /i e a o u/ and /ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʊ/.[4]

References

1. Isoko (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/iso/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Isoko" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/isok1239). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Isoko audio word-list (http://archive.phonetics.ucla.edu/Language/ISO/iso.html)
4. Archangeli & Pulleyblank, 1994. *Grounded phonology*, p 181*ff*

External links

- Audio recordings available in ISOKO (http://globalrecordings.net/program/C10861)
- Voiced labiodental fricatives or glides - all the same to Germans? (http://www.let.uu.nl/~Silke.Hamann/personal/HamannSennema2005a.pdf)

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